

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

Please amend claim 34 as follows:

Claims 1-33 (cancelled)

34. (Currently Amended) An array comprising:

(A) a support surface; and

(B) a plurality of modified oligonucleotide compositions, each composition comprising a plurality of oligonucleotides stably associated with a distinct area of the support surface, wherein the oligonucleotides of each composition are characterized by:

(1) independently having a length of from about 20 to about 300 nucleotides;

(2) having internucleotide linkages selected from the group consisting of phosphorothioate linkages, 2'-O-methyl-phosphodiester, 2'-O-alkyl, 2'-O-ethyl, 2'-O-propyl, 2'-O-butyl, 2'-O-alkyl-n(O-alkyl), 2'-methoxyethoxy, 2'-fluoro, 2'-deoxy-erythropentofuranosyl, 3'-O-methyl, p-isopropyl oligonucleotides, phosphodiester, $[2'-O(CH_2CH_2O)_xCH_3]$ $2'-O(CH_2CH_2O)_xCH_3$, butyne, phosphotriester, phosphoramidate, propargyl, siloxane, carbonate, carboxymethylester, methoxyethoxy, acetamidate, carbamate, thioether, bridged phosphoramidate, bridged methylene phosphonate, phosphorodithioate, bridged phosphorothioate and/or sulfone internucleotide linkages, 3'-3', 5'-5', 5'-2' linkages, and combinations thereof;

(3) having a binding affinity to a complementary sequence greater than the corresponding binding affinity of a non-modified oligonucleotide having the same sequence;

~~[(4) — having nucleotides that possess a substitution at a 2' position of the ribose group, said substitution distinguishing said oligonucleotide from naturally occurring RNA or DNA;]~~ and

~~[(5)]~~ (4) having a pH stability of at least one hour at 37°C at a pH in a range of about 0.5 to 6;

wherein the associated oligonucleotides of one distinct area of the array exhibit substantially the same T_m when bound to a target nucleic acid as oligonucleotides of another distinct area of the array.

35. (Previously Presented) The array of claim 34, wherein the modified oligonucleotides further comprise an end block at the 3' end and exhibit exonuclease resistance of at least twice that of a naturally occurring oligonucleotide having the same sequence and number of bases.

36. (Previously Presented) The array of claim 34, wherein the modified oligonucleotides further comprise an end block at the 5' end and exhibit exonuclease resistance of at least twice that of a naturally occurring oligonucleotide having the same sequence and number of bases.

37. (Previously Presented) An array of claim 34, wherein the modified oligonucleotides of each distinct area of the array exhibit substantially the same T_m .

38. (Previously Presented) The array of claim 34, wherein the modified oligonucleotides of a distinct area are selectively designed to hybridize to RNA.

39. (Previously Presented) The array of claim 34, wherein the modified oligonucleotides of a distinct area are selectively designed to hybridize to DNA.

40. (Previously Presented) The array of claim 34, wherein the modified oligonucleotides are further characterized by modification of at least 25% of their internucleoside linkages.

Claim 41 (cancelled)

42. (Previously Presented) The array of claim 34, wherein said modified oligonucleotides have an average length of from about 100 to about 200 nucleotides.

43. (Previously Presented) The array of claim 34, wherein oligonucleotide sequences of the oligonucleotides of an oligonucleotide composition on the array differs from those of the oligonucleotides of any other oligonucleotide composition on said array.

44. (Previously Presented) The array of claim 34, wherein each oligonucleotide composition comprises a population of identical oligonucleotides.

45. (Previously Presented) The array of claim 34, wherein each oligonucleotide composition comprises a plurality of oligonucleotides that bind to a particular nucleic acid.

46. (Previously Presented) The array of claim 34, wherein the number of oligonucleotide compositions on said array ranges from about 2 to about 10^9 .